IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Applicant: Duane Le Allen	§	
	§	Group Art No.: 2755
	§	
Serial No.: 08/925,703	§	Examiner: George Opie
	§	
Filed: September 9, 1997	§	Docket No: MICE-0083-US
	§	(97.01389.00)
Title: Method and Apparatus for	§	
Installing an Operating System	§	

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Assistant Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Before examination of the application, please cancel claims 1-33 without prejudice and add the following claims:

--34.   A method comprising:

providing an operating system package that includes a first configuration file, the first configuration file including information used by the operating system package to install first drivers for a first set of devices on a computer;

providing a second configuration file external to the operating system package, the second configuration file including information to direct the installation of a second driver for a second device;

installing the second driver on the computer based on the information in the second configuration file; and

installing the operating system package on the computer based on the information in the second configuration file.--

--35.   The method of claim 34, further comprising:

executing a setup program of the operating system package to install the second driver.--

Express Mail No. EL515089515US
Date: December 20, 1999

--36. The method of claim 34, wherein the second device is not included in the first set of devices.--

--37. The method of claim 34, further comprising installing applications after the second driver and the operating system are installed.--

--38. The method of claim 34, further comprising determining one installation procedure from among a plurality of options.--

--39. The method of claim 34, wherein the second device is identified dynamically.--

--40. The method of claim 39, wherein the dynamic identification is at least one of automated and user-driven.--

--41. The method of claim 34, wherein the second device is at least one of an ISA, PCI, SCSI, and an IDE device.--

--42. The method of claim 34, wherein the second device is at least one of a display device, a sound device, a modem, and a controller.--

--43. The method of claim 34, wherein installing the operating system includes patching errors in the first configuration file with information in the second configuration file.--

--44.   An article comprising at least one computer readable storage medium storing instructions to cause a computer to:

generate an external configuration file that is external to an operating system package, the external configuration file including information to direct the installation of a driver for a particular device and the operating system package including an internal configuration file used by the operating system package to install other drivers for other devices on the computer;

install the driver for the particular device of the computer based on the information in the external configuration file; and

install the operating system package on the computer based on the information in the external configuration file.--

--45.   The article of claim 44, wherein said at least one storage medium stores instructions to cause the computer to install applications after the particular driver and the operating system package are installed.--

--46.   The article of claim 44, wherein said at least one storage medium stores instructions to cause the computer to determine one installation procedure from among a plurality of options.--

--47.   The article of claim 44, wherein said at least one storage medium stores instructions to cause the computer to dynamically identify the particular device.--

--48.   The article of claim 44, wherein the particular device is at least one of an ISA, PCI, SCSI, and an IDE device.--

--49.   The article of claim 44, wherein the particular device is at least one of a display device, a sound device, a modem, and a controller.--

--50.   The article of claim 44, wherein said at least one storage medium stores instructions to cause the computer to install the operating system by a technique that includes patching errors in an OS configuration file with information in the external configuration file.--

--51.   The article of claim 44, wherein said at least one storage medium stores instructions to cause the computer to install the driver for the second device and the operating system package contemporaneously.--
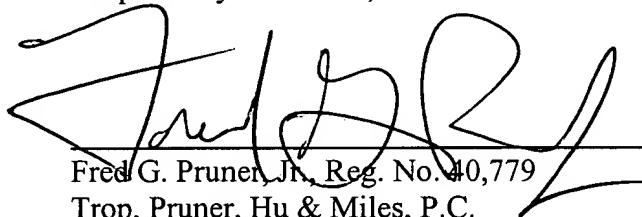
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17 and/or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (MICE-0083-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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